



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Takanori SHINOKI et al.

Serial No. 09/529,255

Filed April 11, 2000

SUPPORT MEMBER FOR SEMIPERMEABLE  
MEMBRANE

: Confirmation No. 5270

: Docket No. 2000\_0465A

: Group Art Unit 1771

: Examiner John J. Guarriello

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AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C.

THE COMMISSIONER IS NOTIFIED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action dated November 5, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

9. (Amended) A support member for a high pressure filtration semipermeable membrane, said support member comprising a nonwoven fabric, said nonwoven fabric comprising a polyester fiber having a double refraction ( $\Delta n$ ) of 0.170 or more, a heat shrinkage stress at 200°C of 0.10-0.60 g/d, and a mean single fiber fineness of 1.0-6.5 denier, and said nonwoven fabric having a mean value of breaking length at an elongation of 5% in a lengthwise direction (MD) and a crosswise direction (CD) of 4.0 km or more and having an air permeability of 0.2-5.0 cc/cm<sup>2</sup>•s.